

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 PC-04 DPW-01 AID-20

CU-04 OMB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 071200Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2589

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA'S FIRST SIT-DOWN POLITICAL RALLY

1. SUMMARY: EVENING OF MAY 3 A CROWD OF 3000, MOSTLY WHITES, HEARD SEVERAL SPEAKERS ATTACK COLONIALISM, RACISM, AND "INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM," CALL FOR THE RETURN TO ANGOLA OF MPLA LEADER AGOSTINHO NETO AND OTHER INSURGENTS AND THE FREEING OF "POLITICAL" PRISONERS. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING FIRST MASS POLITICAL MEETING HELD HERE SO FAR ABOUT 3,000 PEOPLE IN AUDIENCE (I.E. SPECTATORS) REMAINED GENERALLY UNINVOLVED BUT GOOD NATURED WHILE PROCESSION OF UNKNOWNNS ATTACKED INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM (FROM CONTEXT READSDIAMANG AND GULF), CALLED FOR END OF WAR AND RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. RHETORIC WAS AN ATTENUATED, POLITE MIXTURE OF VINTAGE LATIN AMERICAN LEFT AND EARLY-COLLEGIATE ANTI-VIETNAM WAR RALLY. ONLY 10-15 PERCENT OF CROWD CLAPPED OR CHEERED AT ANY ONE TIME; OVERWHELMING MAJORITY (95 PERCENT) WHITE. ONE SPEAKER READ, WITHOUT PRIOR ATTRIBUTION, NETO'S DAR ES SALAAM UNIVERSITY SPEECH (FEBRUARY) AND THEN TOLD THE CROWD WHOSE WORDS THEY

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HAD BEEN HEARING. REACTION FAVORABLE BUT SLIGHT.

3. OTHER THEMES WERE THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BREAK RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA AND NEGOTIATE WITH INSURGENTS. ONE SPEAKER CALLED FOR TRIAL OF DGS SUPER-CHIEF SAO JOSE LOPES. ALL SPEAKERS LAMENTED LACK OF BLACKS I ATTENDANCE AND EACH BLAMED IT ON "FEAR," NOT A VERY CREDIBLE EXPLANATION, WHICH DREW BROAD GRINS FROM SEVERAL BLACKS IN CROWD.

4. ORGANIZED BY THE "DEMOCRATIC CIVIC COMMISSION OF SUPPORT FOR THE JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION," APPARENTLY A LOOSE ALLIANCE OF LEFTISTS, THE RALLY TOOK PLACE IN A SMALL STADIUM ACROSS BAY FROM DOWNTOWN LUANDA. ONLY UNIFORMED MILITARY PRESENCE WAS SMALL GROUP OF SAILORS, SOME WITH PLACARDS. SIGNS HELD BY CROWD READ: "END HOSTILITIES, "FREE POLITICAL PRISONERS," "THE PEOPLE SAY NO TO WAR," AND "DOWN WITH THE FASCISTS," ETC.

5. COMMENT: LISTENING TO THE RALLY ON RADIO (AS THOUSANDS DID) GAVE THE ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION OF MASS WHITE ENTHUSIASM FOR EXTREMIST POSITIONS. THAT IN TURN HAS SERIOUSLY SHAKEN A LARGE NUMBER OF ANGOLAN WHITES.
BRIGGS

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